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JOINT PHOTOGRAPHIC INTELLIGENCE BRIEF

ARMY-NAVY-CIA

(Published and Disseminated by CIA/PIC)

SUBJECT : Kapustin Yar Down-Range Facilities BRIEF NO.: PIC/JB-17/59  
LOCATION : 650 nm east of the Range Head DATE : 4 Nov 59  
B.E. NUMBER: None LAT. : 47°45'N  
WAC NUMBER : 246 LONG. : 62°00'E

25X1D

REQUIREMENT SI/R36/59: Examine photography of Chelkar-Aralsk area, 650 nm down range from Kapustin Yar Range Head, for impact points, instrumentation, and launch areas.

REMARKS:

The examination of photography covering the general area 650 nm east of Kapustin Yar Range Head reveals no identifiable impact points or launch areas. Two possible instrumentation stations were found on the photography.

25X1D

The portion of [ ] covering the area was flown before 0700 hours, and an accurate shadow factor cannot be determined. Because of poor resolution and morning haze, all measurements are to be considered approximate.

One instrumentation station, at 47°14'N/62°30'E, consists of a fenced area 280 by 140 feet with three buildings 30 by 20, 30 by 15, and 20 by 15 feet; two towers 45 feet high and 40 feet apart; and a revetment 35 by 30 feet. The second station, at 47°15'N/62°14'E, is 10.5 nm west of the above station and consists of an unsecured area containing six buildings, 90 by 25, 15 by 15, and four 20 by 15 feet. Located 2,900 feet east of this station are two dome-shaped objects 10 feet in diameter and 35 feet apart, and a 40-foot tower of an unidentified type. The scale and quality of the photography preclude identification of any equipment at these stations. The stations are connected by trails, and heavy track activity is discernible in the surrounding area.

DECLASS REVIEW by NGA/DOD

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The area north (to latitude 48°30'N) of the possible instrumentation stations shows little activity of any type. The terrain is barren and has no perceivable habitation. The few villages encountered south of the stations consist primarily of mud huts and a few tents. No electronics, storage, or maintenance facilities were evident which would be suitable to support missile activities.